

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181109

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TSPA:OCLR

SUBJECT:CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR NASA AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 68666

1. AS PART OF ARCTIC EXPERIMENT PROGRAM, NASA PLANS DEPLOY CV-990 AIRCRAFT TO ALASKA MID-AUGUST TO CONDUCT SERIES OF MEASUREMENTS IN SUPPORT OF AIDJEX AND BESMEX PROGRAMS DESCRIBED REFTEL.

2. AIRCRAFT CARRIES RANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS IMAGING AND NON-IMAGING IR RADIOMETERS, LASER PROFILOMETER, METRIC AND HIGH RESOLUTION CAMERAS, IR SCANNER AND SYNTHETIC-APERTURE IMAGING RADARS.

3. NO REPPEAT NO INSTRUMENTS WILL BE USED OVER FOREIGN (NON-US) LAND AREAS.

4. AIRCRAFT IS USG-OWNED CONVAIR 990 WITH NASA MARKINGS. REGISTRATION AND CALL UNMBERS AND CALL SIGN N 712NA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 181109

5. AIRCRAFT WILL DEPART MOFFETT FIELD CALIFORNIA AUGUST 15 FOR FAIRBANKS, FLY SERIES OF 7 RETURN MISSIONS FROM FAIRBANKS AND RETURN TO MOFFETT AUGUST 29.

6. THREE RETURN MISSIONS WILL BE IN SUPPORT OF AIDJEC WITH MEASUREMENTS MADE OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. FOUR BESMEX FLIGHTS WILL INVOLVE LOW-LEVEL SEARCHES FOR MARINE MAMMALS IN AREA BOUNDED ON WEST BY LINE RUNNING FROM 73 DEGREES 00

MINUTES NORTH 180 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 70 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 180 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 66 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH 168 DEGREES 50 MINUTES WEST TO 65 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH, 168 DEGREES 50 MINUTES WEST TO 63 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH 173 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST, TO 64 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH, 175 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 64 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH, 179 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 62 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 179 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST.

7. BOUNDARY LINE IS EXTREME WESTERN EDGE OF POTENTIAL OBSERVATIONAL AREA. DEPENDING ON ACTUAL LOCATION OF MAMMALS (PRIMARILY WALRUSES) AIRCRAFT MAY NEVER HAVE TO GO THIS FAR WEST. IN ANY EVENT NO OBSERVATIONS WOULD BE TAKEN OVER LAND AREAS (WRANGEL ISLAND) ALTHOUGH IF MAMMALS ARE PRESENT OBSERVATIONS MIGHT EXTEND FROM SEA TOWARD BEACH AREAS.

8. FLIGHTS TO OBSERVATION AREAS WILL BE AT ALTITUDES OF 31,000 OR 35,000 FEET. MEASUREMENTS WILL BE MADE AT LOW LEVEL, IN GRID PATTERNS AT ALTITUDES OF 1,000 TO 5,000 FEET.

9. ALL DATA UNCLASSIFIED AND CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SOVIETS.

10. BESMEX IS ONE PROGRAM TO ACQUIRE MARINE MAMMAL DATA IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT V-6 OF US/USSR AGREEMENT IN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SIGNED IN 1973 (LEAD US AGENCY NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE). DR. V.A. ZEMSKY OF VNIRO IS AWARE OF THIS PROJECT. MINUTES UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 181109

OF PROJECT 6 MEETINGS CONTAIN REFERENCE TO BESMEX.

11. APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONS WILL ACCOMPANY AIRCRAFT. ALL US CITIZENS.

12. REQUEST POST OBTAIN REQUIRED CLERANCES PLUS OR MINUS 72 HOURS AND ADVISE.

13. WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE CABLED TEXTS OF BOTH US
AND USSR NOTES (IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN) FOR USE BY NASA
PILOT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

14. PILOT WILL OF COURSE FILE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLAN.
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